Pam-U.S.

Montana

BLACKFEET

BROWNING, MONT., *Nov. 12, 1909.*

Considerable delay in submitting this report has been occasioned by endeavoring to obtain a more accurate census of the Indians for the year ending June 30, 1909. The total Indian and mixed-blood population, as shown by this year's census, is 1082 males and 1113 females, total 2195, an increase of 128 over last year. Of this increase during the year, 16 are new enrollments of persons who had not previously established their tribal rights, 12 are increase of births over deaths and 100 are births which occurred in prior years not heretofore reported. It is believed that there are not less than 200 additional Indian children on the reservation who have not been enrolled. The press of other matters has precluded a thorough canvas and actual "count of noses" in order to obtain an accurate and complete census. The mixed-bloods as well as Indians have neglected to report births, deaths and marriages in the majority of instances. To obtain more accurate data for the coming year the district farmers are required to submit monthly reports of births and deaths, as are the physicians. The Catholic missionaries are cooperating by furnishing such reports of vital statistics coming under their observation and knowledge. The Allotting Agent has been furnished with a copy of the census for this year, and will note corrections to be made as discovered by him. Further data will be obtained of those Indians who visit the agency office during the year.

While agriculture on this reservation is of secondary importance to the stock-raising industry, more attention is being paid to it each year. The present season seems to have been unusually favorable to agriculture in this section of the country. Many Indians have small gardens producing table-vegetables, and a few of the mixed-blood families have had remarkable success raising potatoes, cabbage, onions, carrots, rutabagas, etc., for market. While the growing season is short, grain and vegetables mature very quickly.

Considerable grain, mostly oats, have been grown this year on the reservation, and more would have been planted if there were better facilities for harvesting. Only three or four binders are in use on the whole reservation. The Mission has had a good binder and horse-power separator in use for a couple of years. Indians living in that vicinity have been able to hire the use of these. The agency has had a binder and old horse-power separator which have been of some benefit to the Indians, but they were worn-out and out-of-date models so that poor results were obtained by their use.

The following is a list of names of Indians residing on the south side of the reservation, with number of acres of grain

planted by each, reported by the farmer for that district this season, viz:

Arthur Walters,	12 acres:	Maggie Hagan,	30 acres,
Peter Cadotte,	6 "	Oliver Racine,	40 "
Philip Flat Tail,	10 "	Bill Shoots,	10 "
Chas. White Swan,	6 "	Joe Bull Shoe,	35 "
Richard Grant,	10 "	Elmer Rattler,	15 "
Chewing Black Bones,	3 "	Running Owl	2 "
Eddie Bear Chief,	40 "	Eli Guardipee,	6 "
John Gobert,	40 "	Henry Deguire,	10 "
Mike Big Lake,	12 "	Joe Spanish,	13 "
Medore La Breche,	14 "		

This is not all of the grain planted by the Indians on the reservation this year but is used as an illustration of the extent to which they are cultivating the soil. While the average acreage is but 16½ acres, it must be remembered that facilities for harvesting grain have been very poor, and it has been possible to grow only a small quantity of grain for feeding stock.

A small but modern steam threshing outfit has been furnished the agency this fall, and the Indians are very much pleased with it and promise to increase greatly the acreage to be sown to grain next season. There should be another threshing outfit purchased for the agency for use next season, so that there may be equal facilities for harvesting on the north and south sides of the reservation. This is not a personal idea or theory, but is something that the Indians actually want and need. Before submitting a definite request for the purchase of the additional outfit, I will ascertain and report the number of Indians on the north and south sides of the reservation who are raising grain and the quantity planted by each.

The principal industry on the reservation for a number of years has been stock-raising. It is not believed that the Indians have been as successful in this industry, considering the advantages which have been provided them by the Department, as would have been the same number of average white people. At the same time their progress in stock-raising has been satisfactory.

Unfortunately the last issue of cattle has been of very little benefit. The stock was issued in the fall, and being southern cattle from the Panhandle of Texas, were poorly adapted for stock-raising in an extreme northern climate. The cows were thin and the calves large. The unusually severe winter following the importation of this stock resulted disastrously for it. I doubt if there are five hundred head of the two thousand cows and calves issued now living. One mixed blood Indian, who has been more successful in stock-raising than the average, tells, me that some of this southern stock actually froze to death while standing in sheds knee deep in hay at his ranch.

There has been a good market this season for beef cattle, compensating in a measure for the losses sustained by reason of severe winters, thefts, etc.

Cattle and horse thieves have been working on the reservation to an alarming extent the past year. Good work horses have been stolen out of stables and pastures, and one bunch from the herd of

work horses used by the Indians on the Two Medicine Irrigation Project. Unbranded yearlings have been rounded up and driven off and rebranded or wrongly branded. In several instances there have been found in isolated districts on the reservation the carcasses of animals slaughtered on the range with only one quarter of beef gone. In one or two instances it has been reported that persons riding across some isolated portions of the reservation have stumbled on to gangs of stock thieves driving small bunches of stock. When the persons discovering these parties have shown any disposition to approach nearer aad make an investigation, they have been fired upon and signalled to keep away. On one occasion an Indian named Harry Horn was out hunting wild geese on small lakes near Badger Creek on the south side of the reservation. On riding up over a ridge he surprised several men in the valley below driving a bunch of cattle. They saw him immediately and drove the stock into some brush a short distance ahead on the run. Horn started to ride on down into the midst of them, when one of them rode out and motioned for him to ride back, at the same time another man in the brush fired a rifle shot over his head. Horn turned back and after making a detour approached the party again from an opposite direction. Upon being discovered, he was fired upon again. Horn then dismounted from his horse and took his rifle in his hands in a manner to show that he did not expect to be driven away. The thieves then rode back into the brush. Being alone and with a short supply of ammunition for his rifle, Horn decided that discretion was the better part of valor and so rode away and came in to the agency and reported the matter. After using every available means at my command I have so far been unable to apprehend these desperados. Their operations are not confined entirely to the reservation, as numerous depredations have been committed in various parts of the State within a hundred miles. Mention was recently made in newspapers of the reported organization of "vigilantes" in parts of the State for the purpose of protecting their property. Serious losses of stock have been sustained by several Indians, but the majority have lost only a few head individually.

On June 19, 1909, I had a report from the Allotting Agent at work on this reservation showing that he had scheduled on that date 423 complete allotments and 251 partial. The area allotted was 185,748.95 acres, reserved, for the following purposes: religious, 642.12; cemetery, 12.50; agency, 248.91; school, 942.20; townsites, 179.28. It is estimated that there will be 2,500 allotments for which 800,000 acres will be required. The land surface of the reservation comprises 1,525,713.05 acres; water surface, 8,836.19; total area, 1,534,549.24 acres. The estimated timbered area of the reservation is 75,713.05 acres.

The Indians are very anxious to have the allotting completed so that they can make permanent improvements and establish suitable homes. They have been looking forward to the time when allotments would be made them for about ten years. While there have been several instances of personal differences arising from disputes over selections for allotment, there have been no general

complaints nor individual opposition to allotment.

Educational work on the reservation is progressing satisfactorily. On account of inability to secure elegibles for appointment, the two day schools were not in operation the past year. There were about three private teachers engaed by a few of the more prosperous families on the reservation to give individual instruction to their children last year. The county school at Browning on the reservation had about 15 pupils and much good was accomplished. The county is now erecting a building to accomodate about 30 pupils here at Browning. The Agency Boarding School, located on Cut Bank River, about five miles north-east of the agency, was filled to capacity last year, the average enrollment being 80. The Holy Family Catholic Mission School, located on Two Medicine River, about 12 miles south-east of the agency, with a capacity of 145 had an average attendance for the year of 98.2. There were 110 pupils from this reservation enrolled at the following non-reservation schools during the year, viz: Haskell 1, Chemawa 9, Carlisle 13, Genoa 26, Ft. Shaw 61. It is estimated that 20 pupils received instruction in private schools, public schools, other than at Browning, and from private teachers.

Summarized, total number of Indian pupils receiving instruction in various schools during the past year was as follows:

Browning Public School	15
Other public & private schools	20
Agency Boarding School	80
Holy Family Catholic Mission	98
Non-reservation schools	110
Total	323

While from the foregoing it is shown that only about half of the Indians of this reservation of school age attended school last year, it is my intention to make a special effort this year to have the number who have not attended any school during the year greatly reduced. Allowance must be made, of course, for those not physically able to attend school and for those who have attended some school in previous years. The majority of children of school age on the reservation who have not attended any school are under 14 years of age and their parents will not consent to their being sent away from home. As the reservation schools, with the exception of two days schools, were filled to very nearly their capacity the past year, it is evident that additional school facilities are required on the reservation.

Applications have been received from the residents in one or two localities for assistance from the Government in establishing day schools. They agree to deliver logs and furnish labor and ask assistance of the Government in erecting buildings, furnishing lumber and other material other than the logs, and paying the salary of the teacher. The Burd Day School, now in operation on the reservation, was erected on this plan.

Missionary work has been undertaken on this reservation by the Catholic and Methodist Churches. In addition to the Catholic Mission School on Two Medicine River, they have placed a Mis-

sionary in charge of the St. Micheal's Church in Browning. Excellent work is being done by the Catholic Missionaries. The Methodist Church does not hold regular Sunday services, but their Missionary gives some instruction in religious matters to the pupils at the Cut Bank Agency Boarding School. A Presbyterian Church has been organized at Browning and it is their intention to erect a building the coming year. A Presbyterian Minister now holds services once a month at Browning, dividing his time between Chester, Whitlash, Cut Bank and Browning, the latter place being located on the reservation.

The evidences of an increase of morality among the Indians are quite strong. It seems to me that one of the worst enemies of immorality among the Indians is industry. My observation is that as the Indians pursue with diligence their various occupations they become more virtuous, and without a doubt the Indians of the reservation have been unusually active in the various reservation industries the past year.

In the observance of marriage customs Indians from this reservation are far from perfect. Still they have improved in this respect from year to year. I would say that the number of Indian-custom marriages on this reservation have less than the average on other reservations among other tribes for several years past. One hundred and seventy-two licenses to marry have been applied for and issued through the agency office since July 1901. I feel that by coming into contact with the Indians of the reservation more at their homes and in their daily occupations, better results can be obtained in enforcing legal marriages. Indian employees such as police, line-riders, farmers, etc., who are better acquainted with individuals and families, are very reluctant to report instances of unlawful cohabitation. The coming year it will be my purpose to get out among the Indians at their homes more than has been the custom of Agents in the past. It has been impossible for me to do this the past year on account of pressing duties in the office. The recent authorization of additional clerical help will, I hope, overcome this obstacle and enable me to cultivate more intimate acquaintance with the personal factor among the Indians.

The Indian Judges of the Court of Indian Officers are very efficient, firm in their opinions, impartial and just. Accordingly results of their work are gratifying. Ninety-one cases were tried in this court during the year. Punishment for misdemeanors is prompt and quite effective.

About the usual number of convictions have been secured of violators of the law prohibiting the introduction of intoxicating liquors on the reservation. The special officers for suppression of liquor traffic have done some effective work in their line at this place during the past year.

Many Indians are working on the irrigation projects on the reservation, a few on the St. Marys Canal, but the majority on the Two Medicine Canal. More would be willing to work at this than the Engineer in charge of the Project has seen fit to employ. Those who have been permitted to work have done very well. One Indian has earned as high as $200 in one month with teams. Another

has earned $100 in one month with a Fresno team. Ordinary laborers draw all the way from $2 to $2.72 per day. Quite a number receive $2.58 per day.

Two mixed-bloods of the reservation have established a saw mill at Two Medicine Lake on the reservation, adjacent to good timber on the Blackfoot Forest Reserve. They have been quite successful the past season, procuring their timber from the forest reserve at a nominal rate for stumpage. As this mill is located about 5 miles north of the railroad and 20 miles west of Browning, considerable employment for Indians as teamsters to haul the lumber has been afforded.

More hay has been cut and stacked on the reservation this year than any other one year.

Considering the long haul necessary in order to procure cord wood for the agency and schools, considerable work is required to obtain it. Indians have been employed for this as usual. Coal for the boarding school is hauled eight miles by Indian teamsters, and supplies for the irrigation project on Two Medicine are also freighted by Indians.

Much road work, fencing, construction of telephone lines, etc., has been accomplished on the reservation with Indian labor during the past year in return for wagons, harness, mowers, rakes etc., issued to them. Those Indians who preferred to pay cash for such implements have been allowed to do so, they being charged invoiced cost and actual transportation charges for same.

A number of Indians from the south side of the reservation were permitted to leave the reservation to work on ranches nearby and a few worked on the private canal project of the Conard Land & Water Co. at Valier, Mont.

The supply of coal for the Holy Family Mission was mined on the reservation and hauled 18 miles by Indian freighters.

I consider that the Indians of the reservation made excellent progress in all industrial pursuits the past year.

C. A. CHURCHILL,
Superintendent.

CROW

CROW AGENCY, MONT., *July 22, 1909*

The Crows have made considerable progress the past year along all lines. More interest has been taken in the farm and garden than before. Their home surroundings have more of a look of progress, which is quite noticeable to people who are familiar with the past of the Crows. A list of able-bodied Indians is being made to go forward with this report, giving a concise account of his home surroundings such as buildings, barns, fields, work horses, range horses, cattle, etc. This will be of interest when it is known that six years ago the Crows lived in camps and worked on community farms and drew rations.

The annual agricultural fair does great good in inspiring the Indians to emulation. It has attracted people from all parts of the country and has been highly praised by the press. The scheme is simply to bring the Indians individually and by districts into competition with each other in exhibiting the products raised by themselves on their farms. Cash prizes are given for the best of stock, poultry, farm and garden exhibits made. The Agricultural Hall, the past three seasons at the Fair, has been a most attractive place and has great interest for the friend who is interested in the Indians' progress and welfare.

The raising of cattle by all the Indians is not a success. Many have eaten or gotten rid of their cattle that were issued them in 1903, while others have taken care of theirs and increased their herds. The business is more satisfactory now than formerly, as the Indian who really has gumption enough to look after his own is making good. The standard of the horses is raising each year. Considerable of the inherited Indian land money is used in buying cattle, poultry, pigs and good work teams. Our grass lands are in fine shape and the Indian horses and cattle are on the best of feed and water.

All the live Indians of this tribe were allotted from 1901 to 1906. Since then a great many children have been born and should be allotted at an early date. A great many applications are made by Indians for relatives who were dead at time allotments were made, or for children whe were born and died since.

The educational work is done by a Catholic mission school with about 70 children, Baptist day school with 35 children, two government boarding schools with 165 children. The Fair scheme has worked up as much interest among school employees as it has with the Indians. Cash prizes are given to the schools for best exhibits of work performed by pupils. Prizes are also given for exhibits from school farms and gardens. The best of spirit prevails among the schools of the reservation and I think each tries to outdo the other in good work. Improvement is noticeable each season in exhibits made at the Fair.

The Crow is slow to yield to religious influence, as he does not interest himself to any great extent regarding the hereafter. He is bent on having a good time while on earth and does not let religious matters stand in his way. There has been and is still being

good work done, and the missionaries are to be praised for their efforts, as it is hard to find a people with less inclination to respond to religious influence than the Crows.

The morality of the Crows still continues to be very bad, although we have abolished the wholesale divorce and compel the Indians to get same through state courts. No more records of four or five wives per annum are being made. Probably 75 per cent of the Indian Court offences are for adultery, and the remainder for whisky. The whisky traffic is nearly wiped out; we have been successful in wiping out a band of bootleggers entirely. Out of a hard-fought whisky case in the Federal court in which we convicted the accused, we have under indictment six men for perjury and a sure case against each for conviction.

The old marriage customs are adhered to by all our Indians, both the educated and uneducated. This office has instructed the police for several years to arrest and bring to the agency any Indian marrying without first having obtained a license to do so. I presume one-half of the Indians are brought in by the police for licenses; very few come voluntarily.

Roads are usually in fine condition; bad places are fixed by Indians residing in the district. In the wider valleys we are putting all roads on section lines to conform to the state law. The Little and Big Horn valleys, where most of our farming lands are, are provided in this manner. This is one of the most important things to a new country, as it saves many law-suits and neighborhood quarrels in after years.

In summing up, I am glad to say the past year has been well accounted for by the Crows; their prospects for a good harvest are excellent; the hay crop will be very large; nearly all the able-bodied Indians have good gardens and a number more this year have built root cellars to protect their vegetables during winter. Six or seven years ago, practically all were drawing rations; during the past four years not a ration has been issued. Very little help of any kind is now required. A wise supervision over them, keeping them interested in the one scheme of home-building and staying there, is the important work to be done here.

S. G. Reynolds,
Superintendent.

PRYOR CREEK SCHOOL

Pryor Creek, Mont., *August 2, 1909.*

This is my seventh annual report. The enrollment was 63, average attendance 56; new pupils enrolled 14; excused from further attendance 11; scholastic population of the Pryor district 64.

The health of the pupils was good except for an epidemic of influenza during which several cases of pneumonia developed, but there was prompt and complete recovery in every case. At the close of the school year the children were again in good physical condition.

The school farm consists of 120 acres of which 80 are under ditch. 30 are in a high state of cultivation and self-irrigating. The farm work was carried on this spring without an industrial teacher or farmer. The boys have an excellent garden of four acres, in which over 40 varieties of vegetables are growing. They also planted an orchard of 96 apple trees, sowed one acre

of spring wheat, oats, barley, speltz and five acres of alfalfa. The remaining land under cultivation is sown in winter wheat, alfalfa, timothy and blue grass.

Improvements and Repairs

A large dairy barn was built by Indian labor under the supervision of an Indian carpenter. School-boys dug the trenches and helped to lay the stone foundation walls. They also aided in boarding, shingling and painting the building. The irrigation system consisting of over two miles of ditches and forty-five gates was cleaned and repaired. Seven loads of timber were hauled from the mountains and fences and sidewalks repaired. Planned and built two poultry houses. Repaired the doors and windows of all the buildings. Painted the dining-room, school-room, three dormitories, halls and porches of the main brick building. Considerable work was also done on school roads and grounds.

The girls continued their good work in housekeeping, cooking, sewing, and a number have become quite proficient in general housework.

The school-room program was the same as in former years and the progress was from fair to good.

During the year the pupils have done more and better work than ever before, even the Indians commending the farm and industrial work of the school.

At the annual Crow fair, Crow Agency, four schools exhibiting, Pryor School secured over 40 per cent of the money offered as prizes. The school was awarded the second prize for best general display, first prize for the best exhibit by a boy, first prize for the besst exhibit by a girl, and several prizes to the culinary department.

H. L. Oberlander,
Principal and Physician.

FLATHEAD

Jocko, Mont., *July 20, 1909.*

Most of the Indians on this reservation follow farming and stock-raising for a livelihood. Spring came rather late this year, but there has been sufficient rain for all crops, and the indication is for an excellent yield, although the hay crop is the only one advanced enough for harvesting. Many of the Indians are fencing their allotments and putting substantial improvements on them. Several nice orchards have been set out.

There are not the large herds of stock that formerly grazed on the reservation, due, in a large measure, to the fenced allotments decreasing the size of the open range, and to the larger profit in diversified farming. However, nearly all the farmers have several head of both cattle and horses, and there are some few who have fair sized herds of stock. The Pablo buffalo herd, of which much has been written, have with the exception of a very few wild ones, been rounded up and shipped to the Canadian Government.

With the exception of some changes in allotments, the allotting work on this reservation has been practically completed. The reserving for reclamation purposes of several tracts of land rendered necessary many changes in allotments, relinquishments being obtained from the allottees and allotments made elsewhere.

There are four Government day schools on the reservation, and all had a good attendance during the past year. Quite a number of children from this reservation are in the schools at Fort Shaw, Montana, and Chemawa, Oregon. There are public schools at Arlee and Dixon which admit Indian pupils. Quite a number of Indian children who reside in the vicinity attend these schools. There are three large boarding schools, non-aided, conducted by the Catholic societies on the reservation. Their average attendance for the past year was 195.

The Catholic societies are doing the only missionary work on the reservation. They are exerting quite an influence for the betterment of morals of these Indians, which, I regret to state, are very demoralized. There are many cases where an Indian, legally married, is living with some other person. This practice has grown so prevalent and is so wide-spread that it will doubtless take some time to teach the Indian that this is not the right way to live. The missionaries are doing all in their power to aid the office in its efforts to break up this practice, and I can report things much bet ter than they were a year ago.

The majority of these Indians are addicted to the use of alcoholic drinks, and seem to have no trouble in obtaining it at Missoula, Frenchtown, Plains, Dayton, and other towns near the reservation, from men who seem to have no other business than the selling of liquor to Indians. I have had a number arrested and convicted and others are awaiting trial, and the special officers who have visited this reservation have always secured a number of cases. Of course, it is needless to state that this easy securing of liquor is one of the worst things for the Indian, and is probably at the bottom of most of his immorality and other crimes.

Most of the marriages are on licenses issued in this office, the ceremony being performed by the Catholic Fathers, practically the entire Indian population being of that faith.

There have been numerous cases before the Indian Court, adultery, stealing and drunkenness, being the most common. The Judges on the whole seem to be very fair, thought light, in their verdicts.

The Indians seem to be quite adverse to turning out to assist in the repair of bad roads. The principal work of this character has been the building of new bridges. We have purchased several thousand feet of logs, which have been sawed into lumber at the Government mill. A great deal of this will be necessary for the building of new bridges over the Jocko River, the old ones being in a bad state of repair.

The U. S. Reclamation Service is now constructing three of their units on the Flathead project, and have tried hard to interest the Indian in the new line of work, and have been quite successful, especially at the Jocko unit. Early in the season many responded, both single-handed and with teams; however, not as many as should have done. Recently most all have laid off to attend to the harvest, which is unusually heavy owing to an abundant rainfall during the past spring. Much new ground was broken which adds considerable to the crop acreage.

A new grist and saw mill is under construction at Ronan, to take the place of the one destroyed by fire three years ago. This will be appreciated by the wards in that vicinity, as it will give them an opportunity to have ground into flour their wheat, thereby saving considerable of a haul to market. It will also give those living in that vicinity an opportunity to manufacture lumber for the purpose of fencing and improving their allotments.

The fact that there is a splendid opportunity for diversified farming here gives the Indians a chance to build comfortable homes

and become prosperous. Especially will this be so when the U. S. Reclamation Service has completed the irrigation system now under construction, thereby insuring crops during the dry seasons.

Without doubt, before the close of the year the Montana and Great Northern Railway will begin the construction of a new rail way line, going through a part of the best farming lands on the reservation. This will bring many of them nearer to market and will doubtless increase the value of the products of the ranch.

The health of these Indians has been unusually good during the past year. As usual, tuberculosis claimed the most victims. There were no epidemics of any sort, although several cases of diphtheria devoloped during the spring; but owing to prompt action of the physician its spread was checked.

FRED C. MORGAN,
Superintendent.

FORT BELKNAP

HARLEM, MONTANA, *July 28, 1909.*

The reservation contains 537,000 acres of land located in Chouteau County, State of Montana; is fairly well watered, certain portions being splendid for farming land. The balance is considered one of the best stock ranges in Montana. The reservation is fenced with a four wire fence with stays and posts. However, I regret to say that the fence is not in the best condition owing to the fact that the posts are beginning to rot. Within the confines of the reservation the Indians have about 5000 head of horses and 4000 head of cattle, the ownership being pretty evenly divided. Of course, some of the most no-account have neither horses nor cattle; but I am glad to say that there are very few of this stamp.

The Indians consist of the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine tribes. The Gros Ventre are principally located on People's Creek, a beautiful and fertile valley, at a point where the creek debouches from the Little Rocky mountains. These Indians are farmers in the best sense of the word, nearly all having good farms where they grow all kinds of vegetables, alfalfa, oats and wheat. They all own cattle and horses. They have a ready market for all of their produce at the mines of Landusky and Zortman. They are good traders and know the value of the almighty dollar. The Assiniboines are partly located on Lodge Pole, Big and Little Warm creeks, also a few on Beaver creek. The majority of the tribe is, however, located on the Milk river. The Indians located upon Lodge Pole, Big and Little Warm, and Beaver creeks all farm and sell their produce at the mines. In the winter they engage in wood-chopping and freighting for the mines. They have cattle and horses, and are fairly thrifty. The Assiniboines and Gros Ventres who are located upon Milk river are the real big farmers of the reservation. Here we have abont 4,000 acres in grain alone (oats and wheat), and this year it will be a bumper crop, as it is now well past the critical stage. We have more grain in sight upon the

reservation than all of the whites put together from Glasgow to Havre, a distance of 200 miles along the Milk river valley on the state side. Our hay crop is so great this year that I do not think the Indians will be able to cut and put it up by half. This, I think is a remarkable showing when you take into consideration that seven years ago, when I first started in to build up this valley, it was a sage-brush bottom and dry as the desert of Sahara. During the seven years, we have built up one of the best, if not the best, irrigation systems in the state of Montana, We fought out a water right suit lasting three years, and finally won a most signal victory by the Supreme Court of the United States giving us all of the waters of Milk river that we could put to economic use. That decision alone enhanced the value of the Indian land along Milk river subject to irrigation, at least $1,000,000. I will quit on this theme as I fear you will think I am allowing my imagination to run riot upon a topic very near my heart, as I firmly believe that the Indian has to learn to be a good farmer before he can be much good at anything else.

We are now selling the Indian at actual cost all of his farming machinery, wagons and harness, and in some cases buy horses for those who need them and have not the ready funds to purchase them. This, in my opinion, is the correct system. It makes them more independent and gives a sense of ownership, consequently the pride that goes with ownership. They club together and buy binders and articles where the price is too great for one to bear the burden; although a number have bought their own binders. I have no trouble in collecting for my sales, as the people pay up as fast as their funds permit, and they seem to feel real happy when the last cent is paid and the title to the article purchased passes finally into their hands.

The Milk River Boarding School, located at the agency, was run last year rather as an auxiliary to the day schools; only the very young being taken in, the idea being to prepare the younger children for the day schools by teaching them to speak English, also how to care for themselves when transferred to the day schools. The Lodge Pole Day School was a complete success. There was a good attendance all winter, and the children advanced in their work rapidly. The Milk River Day School did not have a very large attendance owing to the fact that the Indians were too badly scattered. This winter I think the Indians will start a village near the school, and the attendance will be better. We do not provide lunch at either of the day schools as the children bring their own lunch. However, I keep crackers at the schools, and the matrons and teachers are instructed to see that none of the children go hungry.

The St. Paul's Mission, located on People's Creek, under the auspices of the Society of Jesus and presided over by the Rev. Father Joseph M. Piet, S. J., is a splendid institution, all built of native stone, and is an institution that would be an ornament to any community. The work of the Reverend Father and his assistants has been of the best. Here the Indian youth receives a good training in farming and stock raising, and the school work is car-

ried on in the most approved manner. The Presbyterians maintain a chapel upon Milk river, and one between Big Warm Spring and Lodge Pole creeks. They confine themselves to preaching of the Gospel. The Catholics also maintain a chapel on Milk river near the day school, and are now building another at the agency proper.

The moral tone of the reservation generally is on the improve. Polygamy is confined to two or three old buffalo hunters, who had taken plural wives some 25 or 30 years ago. I have never disturbed them, believing that it was better to let them live out their lives as they had started, in preference to throwing two or three old women out of their homes where they are happy and contented with their lot in life.

The general health of the reservation still improves with each year. There have been no contagious diseases the last year. Tuberculosis we still have and always will, manifested principally by scrofula and consumption.

The Police force is efficient, and sufficient for our needs. The Court of Indian Offenses has had very little work during the year, nearly all cases being handled by myself.

To me, the future of the Fort Belknap Indians looks bright, and prosperity seems to be hovering upon the horizon of their hopes. If they can be made to realize their opportunity and grasp it, the "Indian Problem," as far as this reservation is concerned, will be solved.

Next spring will see inaugurated a new move along farming lines—the raising of sugar-beets on a 5000-acre farm annually for ten years. I have often wondered if the Office realized the magnitude of this undertaking the heart-breaking, nerve-racking work that it takes to make 1300 people, who only a few years ago were savages, whose energies were spent only in war and the chase and scorned the use of the plow, into intensive farmers. Yet, that is what we are doing here, and so far the results have been very gratifying.

W. R. Logan,
Superintendent.

FORT PECK

Poplar, Mont., *July 26, 1909.*

The Fort Peck Indian Reservation is situated in Valley County, Montana, lies north of the Missouri River between the Porcupine and Big Muddy Creeks, the latter the eastern boundary; is approximately 40 miles wide by 80 long, embracing about 3,000 square miles, or 1,776,000 acres of land, and is unallotted, railroad station, post-office, and telegraphic address, Poplar, Montana, one-third mile southwest of agency, on the main line of the Great Northern Railway; nearest military post, Fort Assiniboin, Montana, about 235 miles west.

The population is as follows:

Yankton, (males 539 females 543)	1082
Assiniboin, (males 293 " 317)	610
	1692
Children of school age: Yankton, (males 149; females 141)	290
Assiniboin, (males 66;) females 75)	141
	431

Poplar River Training School is the only Government boarding school on the reservation; enrollment 138, average attendance 112; located one-third mile north of Agency; capacity 200. This school has been very successful during the past year, has had good discipline, and is getting practical results. Training is given in literary work, domestic science and agricultural pursuits. The school farm and garden is in excellent condition and the prospects indicate that the school will have the best crop in its history. Special attention is given farming and stock-raising, since these Indians will have to depend largely on those industries in the future to earn a living. A new brick school-building has been added during the past fiscal year, adding much to the class-room results.

Day School No. 1 is located 25 miles east of the agency, 3 miles west of Blair, a Great Northern Ry. station 28 miles east of Popular. Post-office and telegraph address Culbertson, Mont. Enrollment 31, average attendance 24.5, capacity 30. The work at this school was satisfactory.

Day School No. 2 located 12 miles east of the agency and 3 miles southwest of Brockton, on G. N. Ry., which is its post-office and telegraphic address. Enrollment 28, average attendance 22, capacity 30. Good work was done at this school, especially in the industrial instruction.

Day school No. 3 is located 32 miles west of Agency at Oswego, its post-office and telegraphic address, on the G. N. Ry. Capacity 30; attendance 30, and average attendance 25. The literary work of this school is good, but the school garden was not good. The teacher resigned June 30, 1909.

Day school No. 4 is 42 miles west of Agency on the G. N. Ry. at Frazer, Mont., its post-office address; Oswego, telegraphic address. Capacity 30; enrollment 31 and average attendance 27. This school has a good plant and is conducted as a model day school should be. The literary training as well as industrial training is excellent.

Wolf Point Mission School is maintained by the Board of Home Missions, Presbyterian Church, located at Wolf Point sub-agency, 22 miles west of agency, on G. N. Ry., and is a combined boarding and day school, with a capacity of about 50. Enrollment 41, average attendance, 32. Members of the Assiniboine tribe attend this school. The instruction given in the literary as wel las industrial department is good.

The Indians continue to maintain a preference for the day school, principally for the reason that the children may be near them.

One public school was maintained on the reservation, at Poplar, with two teachers. Enrollment of Indians belonging to this reser-

vation 18; two enrolled not members of the reservation. Average attendance of the 20 Indian children 13.5. The results attained at this school are far better than at the Indian schools as relates to literary work.

The Presbyterian and Catholic Churches are the only denominations doing missionary work on this reservation. Both have a resident missionary and there are several Indian assistants. Both of the above named denominations have several churches on the reservation. Nearly all of the pupils of the boarding schools attend Sunday School and exercises of their church. The churches and their representatives continue to be of great assistance in extending civilization among these Indians.

The general health of the Indians of this reservation continues to be fair, but tuberculosis in its many forms claims a large number of victims each year. The physicians have been doing all in their power to hold this disease in check.

The past winter was not very cold, and there was but little snow; 41 degrees below zero was the coldest. There was very little suffering among the Indian stock, they having sufficient hay and shelter. An abundance of rain has fallen this year, making all vegetation grow wonderfully. The hay crop is enormous; grain is fine and gardens are good.

The Indians have been engaged in reservation work mostly this year, doing more farming than usual, making selections for their future allotments, and building homes and making general improvements thereon. A large amount of cottonwood lumber sawed by the agency sawmill, is being used in the work of making these improvments at very little cost to the Indians.

The issued stock and their increase are being well taken care of, and the farmers arrange so each owner harvests the necessary amount of hay to winter his stock.

These Indians have all adopted civilized dress, and the majority of them understand English well enough for ordinary purposes.

The police force is very efficient and useful. We have had but little difficulty with the liquor traffic; one Indian and one white man were convicted and sentenced for introducing liquor on the reservation. There were no suicides or murder cases. A few persons accused of drinking, some quarreling Indians, several adulterers; and a few persons leaving the reservation without passes, constitutes practically the entire criminal record for the past year. One disturbing Indian half-blood was removed from the reservation lately by order of the Secretary of the Interior.

The Court of Indian Offenses is a very usefnl body and does much to discourage crime. Appeals are seldom taken from the decision of the judges.

As mentioned before, we have had very little difficulty with the liquor traffic, the situation in this respect being probably the best in the history of the reservation. The amendment to the bill providing for the opening of the reservation, preventing the sale or introduction of intoxicants on the reservation for a period of 25 years, will insure that there will be very little difficulty with the liquor problem.

The prospect of the early opening of the reservation has encouraged a number of traders, and there are now 23 licensed traders on the reservation, besides two full- blood members of the reservation who also trade, and there are several applications for licenses which are pending. These traders observe the laws relating to trade with Indian tribes.

There was received $1455.50 as grazing tax, and $251.33 as right of way for telephone lines, during the past fiscal year. Also 204.85 acres was sold to the Great Northern Ry. near Frazer, Mont., for a ballast pit at $25 an acre, but the deed for same has not been approved, nor money deposited to the credit of these Indians yet. Proposals are being requested for leasing the grazing lands of this reservation, which will produce a larger revenue for these Indians if leased in that manner.

A council was held April 7, 1909, for the re-election of a business committee and for such other business as might come before said council. Several persons were adopted.

Representives of the Reclamation Service have examined the reservation and decided that irrigation was practicable; an irrigation canal will undoubtedly be constructed in a few years, increasing the value of the Indian lands, and furnishing them abundance of convenient work meanwhile. The Geological examination of the reservation is completed, and it is now being surveyed by the U. S. Surveyors. A large portion of the reservation is now ready for allotment work. Several townsites have been surveyed on the reservation along the line of the Great Northern Railway Co. The Indians are very anxious for allotment, not a dissenting voice being heard.

The employees have rendered excellent service and there were fewer changes among them than usual.

In conclusion I will report that I am well satisfied with the progress made in the past year. The most of these Indians are industrious, thrifty, peaceful and contented, and they will compare favorably with any average tribe.

B. S. Miller,
Superintendent.

FORT SHAW SCHOOL

Fort Shaw, Mont., *July 1, 1909.*

The attendance at Fort Shaw School during the year averaged 298.1, being low in September but keeping up well at the end of the term. Desertions numbered 34.

No new buildings were made except three coal houses. Many repairs were made to interior of buildings, including windows and doors, plastering and the laying of 20,000 feet of flooring. Roofs were renewed, requiring about 150,000 shingles. Four of the large porches were re-floored with concrete and a concrete milk-room constructed. One room was added to the office and the ware-house repaired. Additional bath-rooms and lavatories for employees have been installed. The kitchens and dining-rooms, hospital, and most

employees' rooms have been properly screened. Material is on hand for renewing weather-boarding, where needed, and for painting all buildings as soon as the necessary carpenter work shall have been done. Plans and estimates for the long deferred electric light plant are in your Office. The general condition of the buildings can hardly be rated better than "Fair," as yet, but prospects are good for more improvement.

There have been 230 acres of sod broken and about 50 acres of the same seeded to spring crops. This is irrigable land and should be in proper condition for permanent grass crops or tillage next season. The school farm now embraces four sections of land, 1227 acres of which are under the ditches of the Reclamation Service, from which the school now receives water, paying a maintenance fee of 50 cents per irrigable acre. One section of the irrigable land is now fenced and will be used for crops, wild hay and pasture this year. The remaining land it is hoped to fence during the ensuing year, and thus care for all school stock on school land. Four hundred rods of strong woven wire fencing is on hand for renewing corrals and campus fence. A driving team and well-bred Belgian stallion were purchased from sale of surplus horses, leaving about 60 head of horses on hand. These will soon be improved so as to be more serviceable, or saleable at increased prices. Two registered Short-horn bulls were purchased, and all bulls on hand sold to prevent in-breeding. The beef herd now numbers about 100 and the dairy herd about 50. Improved breeding stock will be purchased for the latter as soon as found at reasonable prices.

Training in the trades for boys has been in tailoring, blacksmithing, carpentry, and engineering. Tailoring will be discontinued hereafter, as not well adapted to the disposition or physical welfare of Indians, although the work in this department was well done. Instruction in blacksmithing was not satisfactory until late in the year, owing to the erratic habits of the instructor; present conditions are good. There is still much improvement desired in the carpentry line, although work and instruction have proceeded through the year without interruption. 152 days irregular labor of carpentery was used in repairing buildings, and boys were detailed to assist this employe. The engineer's work is now in competent hands and seems likely to continue satisfactorily. The prospect of an electric light plant increases the importance of this department and will add to the interest of students and apprentices.

For the girls, good instruction work was done in fancy and plain needlework and dressmaking, in cooking and the other customary domestic departments.

The school-room work progressed satisfactorily, with no change in the personel of the six teachers during the year. The course covers the eight grammar school grades, modified hereafter so as to include agriculture and to correlate school-room work with the industries throughout the school. There were three graduates June 17, 1909.

Two cases requiring drastic measures arose in this department from boys breaking into a store and a settler's cabin. One

young man was given a year in the penitentiary and four others jail sentences. The leader of this gang being removed, conditions improved rapidly. The saloons at Sun River, Montana, five miles distant, gave trouble on one or two occasions by selling liquor to boys. One arrest was made, but the prosecution failed. The Superintendent has given some time to fighting a preliminary move looking to the establishment of a saloon on the Fort Shaw town-site adjoining the school. Following the example of white men of the community, and in fact of a majority of the male employes at the beginning of the year, cigarettes formed a prominent part of the daily diet of most large and many small boys. It is believed that some progress has been made toward lessening the evil, and the new state law which goes into effect September 1, next should aid in its control.

The employee force numbering 30 has been equal to the average, and in positions filled by women above the average as to quality of work and the personal character of the workers. Changes occurred in the positions of superintendent, engineer, asst. engineer, blacksmith, gardener, asst. matron at $600, baker, cook, and asst. cook. Two positions are vacant at the beginning of the year 1910.

JOHN B. BROWN,
Superintendent.

TONGUE RIVER

LAMEDEER, MONT., *July 23, 1909.*

The Northern Cheyenne Reservation, located in Rosebud County southeastern Montana, comprises about 460,000 acres of ideal grazing range. The Reservation is entirely inclosed by substantial fences. Crow agency Station on the Burlington Route, located fifty miles from the Tongue River Agency, is the nearest railroad point. Telephone connection has been established between Lamedeer (the location of the reservation office) and Forsyth, Montana, Crow Agency, Montana, and Sheridan, Wyoming.

The Indians of the reservation are unallotted, but most of them have permanent homes on fenced inclosures on the various valleys of the reservation. They take interest in alfalfa raising, and they cut practically all of the wild hay suitable for use about their home inclosures. Winter wheat was sown experimentally upon the Divide between the Rosebud and Tongue Rivers and also at the Boarding school farm, and promises to yield fair returns without irrigation.

Stock-raising is the natural business for the Indians of this Reservation. During the year a shipment of four-year old steers was made for the Indians running stock on the reservation, and it developed that the shipment included the heaviest range steers shipped to Chicago during the year, and that the prices paid were practically the highest offered during the season. This is the second shipment that has been made for the Indians, being increase

from the heifers issued to the Indians by the Government six years ago, with a view to encouraging the Indians to realize the possibilities of stock-raising on the reservation. During the spring roundup about 1200 calves were branded for the Indians, while last year 1400 calves were branded on the spring and fall roundups. A forward step in the development of the stock business was made in the appointment this year of a competent stock inspector under whose charge the reservation stock business will directly fall.

The excess range of the reservation over that needed at the present time for Indian stock, has been leased under the permit system at the rate of $2.25 per head and with the conditions that the permittees shall bear all expenses in connection with the reservation calf roundups, and also to return all cattle belonging to Indians that have strayed off the reservation and are picked up by the permittees in their personal roundups. It is estimated that for a number of years new revenues approximating $22000 will accrue from grazing permits here. The settlers have heretofore feared to put cattle upon the reservation because of the reputation the Cheyennes held as cattle killers. It is believed that there will now be but little danger on this account.

The value to the Indians of good horse stock is being realized through the hundred per cent better prices that they receive from the colts sired by the larger sized stallions purchased by the Government a few years ago. The Indians here must look to stock business as the source from which to expect economic betterment.

Work has continued on the Tongue River Irrigation Project, and about 1200 acres of very productive land will be ready for subdivision into twenty acre lots by the fall of this year. The Indians will be required to make good use of this land, in advance of the Government extending the length of the main ditch.

The educational equipment consists of a modern brick boarding school plant with a capacity for seventy-five children, located at Busby, Montana, eighteen miles from the agency, in which there was an average attendance during the past year of about sixty; a day school with a capacity of thirty-two located at the agency; a day school with a capacity of thirty located at Birney, Montana; and a Catholic mission school with a capacity of sixty located just off the reservation at Ashland, Montana. The attendance at all the schools has been quite full and regular. A Mennonite Mission is located close to the boarding school at Busby, and the Catholic Mission school at Ashland is under the charge of the Ursuline nuns. Both of these missions do good work on the reservation and their kindly efforts are appreciated by the Indians. The day school at Birney, Montana, was opened for the first time this year. This school is situated in a community located twenty-five miles from the Agency and it is the first school that has ever been built in the district. The Indians eagerly seized the opportunity afforded to have their children attend school, and always had more children applying for admittance than the capacity of the school could care for.

The Indians are married after the laws of the state, and it may be said that the moral standard of the tribe is comparatively high.

J. R. Eddy,
Superintendent.

FIELD MATRON, TONGUE RIVER

Lamedeer, Mont., *August 10, 1909.*

Since the field matron and her work is comparatively a new feature in the lives of these people, great care has been observed to give them the proper ideas concerning the position and work. To gain their confidence was considered one of the greatest helps in the work; another to prove to them that the field matron comes to them not as a fault-finder but as a true friend and helper.

With the exception of a few instances I have been permitted to enter their homes. A few times I had to await the will of the medicine men before I was allowed to enter. It has been proven that the most successful way to influence is in administering to their sick and helpless. In many cases where I have visited and cared for the sick, whether or not they recovered, afterwards I found the family very willing to do their best in complying with my wishes and suggestions to better their condition.

During the past few monthes I have had several cases of tuberculosis under my care. In one case I persuaded the parents to pitch their tents in a nice clean spot, make a bedstead and move their boy from a bed on the floor in the house to the tent. In quite a few homes I find cuspidores. I am positive that to introduce the use of fireplaces instead of the heating stoves in their homes would greatly improve sanitation and ventilation. And as they take much comfort from the open fire, could the idea but be demonstrated in one or two instances, many homes would soon have the fireplaces. As to the stone and fuel, the reservation affords both in quantities.

During the past past year the Mennonites built and dedicated a nice little chapel at Lamedeer. They conduct services every other Sunday which are well attended by both old and young.

The amount of headwork done by the women is limited, owing mostly to the scarcity of buckskin and other skins which they tan and make use of. For moccasins for everyday wear they use a heavy canvas quite a little. Very few seem inclined to wear our style of dress. Even the girls (returned students) who wish to wear their school clothes find it hard owing to the ridicule of the less progressive class.

The progress in teaching the women to make and use yeast bread has been slow, though it improved the past three months. They like the bread, but do not care to make it.

I expect the amount of the hay harvested this year to greatly exceed that of last, owing to the heavy crop of grass. And every family with a ranch was very busy in the hay field during the season.

Clara D. Holt,
Field Matron.

FROM
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.
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